

**Records of the Committee  
on Science and Astronautics  
RG.233.88.SA  
88th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,  
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Table of Contents

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<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	5
<u>Bill Files</u> .....	5
<u>Committee Papers</u> .....	5
<u>Petitions and Memorials</u> .....	6

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Committee on Science and Astronautics
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1963-1965
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Biographical/Historical note

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The Committee on Science and Astronautics was authorized by H. Res. 580 on July 21, 1958 to study and investigate "all aspects and problems relating to the exploration of outer space and the control, development, and use of astronautical resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities." The Committee on Science and Astronautics began its operations in January 1959. During the first decade its jurisdiction covered (a) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment and facilities. (b) Bureau of Standards, standardization of weights and measures and the metric system. (c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. (d) National Aeronautics and Space Council. (e) National Science Foundation [NSF]. (f) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof. (g) Science scholarships., and (h) Scientific research and development. Its primary initial mission was oversight of NASA and the non-military space program. Over the years shifts in focus resulted in the committee changing its name from the Committee on Science and Astronautics to the Committee on Science and Technology (94th Congress); and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (99th Congress). Most recently, the name changed to the Committee on Science (104th Congress); Science and Technology (110th Congress); and Science, Space and Technology (112th Congress).

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

## Collection Inventory

### Bill Files 1963-1965

#### Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Science and Astronautics make up the core of the committee holdings. The format of bill files varies from committee to committee; indeed, the contents of bill files for a given committee will vary from Congress to Congress. Bill files are arranged as follows: House of Representatives bills (H.R.), House joint resolutions (H.J. Res.), House concurrent resolutions (H. Con. Res.), House resolutions (H.Res.), and Senate bills (S.). On the front of most file folders is pasted a printed endorsement identifying the Congress and session, bill number, purpose of the bill, name of the member who introduced it, and date of referral to the committee. Inside the folder, usually in reverse chronological order, is the printed bill; correspondence with departments and agencies seeking opinions and recommendations; correspondence with committee witnesses; letters and telegrams from the general public; magazines, newspaper clippings and other enclosures sent from the public to the committee; copies of the "Congressional Record" concerning Senate action on a given subject; printed House and Senate reports; sheets showing differences between House and Senate versions of corresponding bills; and printed copies of public laws. On occasion, one also finds text of suggested floor statements or amendments for a bill, copies of the House resolution requesting a rule from the Rules Committee, and appropriate inter-committee correspondence.

### Committee Papers 1963-1965

#### Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Science and Astronautics consist of executive communications; published committee and subcommittee hearings; published House documents and agency reports; and final published editions of committee calendars. Executive communications generally were addressed to the Speaker of the House and then referred to the committee. These

## Petitions and Memorials

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communications consist of transmittal letters and enclosures such as lists of grants from the Agriculture Department; lists of contracts negotiated by NASA; and suggestions for proposed bills from cabinet departments. Of particular note among the executive communications are NASA volumes relating to a proposed Electronics Research Center (88 SA.2). Among printed hearings found in the committee papers are those for the 1964 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 5466, superseded by H.R. 7500, 88th Cong., (88 SA.4)); and the 1965 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 9641, superseded by H.R. 10456, 88th Cong., (88 SA.4)). Printed House documents generally consist of presidential messages transmitting annual reports or recommending amendments to existing legislation. Other printed materials include NASA's semi-annual reports. Committee calendars are present for the 88th Congress (88 SA.5) and serve as a modern-day substitute for docket books.

### **Petitions and Memorials 1963-1965**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

A few petitions and memorials exist for each Congress for the years in question but they are not a significant part of the committee's records. All documents in this category were addressed to the Speaker of the House and subsequently referred to the committee. Fewer than a dozen memorials from state legislatures are present in the collection. They include those from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Massachusetts (location of a proposed Electronics Research Center, 88 SA.3). Petitions came from the Board of Selectmen of a Massachusetts town urging the selection of the Central Merrimack Valley as the location of a NASA space research laboratory (88 SA.3), as well as from two individuals on various personal concerns (88 SA.3).